

## **REMARKS**

With entry of this Amendment, claims 22-48 are pending in the application. Applicants acknowledge that claims 22-27, 29-35, and 37-43 are allowed. Office action, page 3.

In addition to the amendments mentioned below, Applicants have amended the claims to remove typographical errors and to better conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is entered by these amendments. Furthermore, Applicants have canceled claim 49, which was redundant of claim 48.

### **I. Objections to the Claims**

The Office objects to claims 28, 36, and 44-49 due to the following informalities:

1. claim 28, a superscript minus sign must be inserted after "COO" and before the comma;
2. claim 36, before "hydroxycarboxylic" the "a" needs to be changed to "α";
3. claim 44, delete the comma after "solution";
4. claim 45, certain commas need to be deleted;
5. claim 46, both commas at page 14, line 1, need to be deleted;
6. claim 47, the commas at lines 7 and 10 need to be deleted; and
7. claim 49, "biocompatible" is misspelled.

Office action, pages 2 and 3.

The amendments to the claims appearing in the listing of claims above address each of these issues raised by the Office. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office reconsider and withdraw the objections.

## **II. Objections to the Specification**

The amendment to the specification submitted December 18, 2003, has not been entered because it was not presented in compliance with the rules of practice. Office action, page 2. Consequently, the following deficiencies in the specification were not corrected:

1. page 10, line 18, "alicyclics" is misspelled; and
2. page 10, line 33, one of the occurrences of "nature" must be deleted.

Office action, page 2.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct these typographical errors. No new matter has been entered by the amendments. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office also requires correction of the abstract, citing M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b), by deleting the occurrence of legal phraseology "said" and "means." Office action, page 2. Applicants enclose a substitute abstract of the disclosure wherein the language at issue has been deleted. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

### **CONCLUSION**


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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